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# St. Neots Rural District Council.

## ANNUAL REPORT

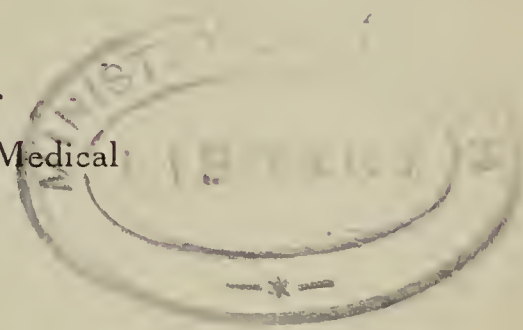
FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1925,

BY

EDWARD J. CROSS, M.D., D.P.H.

(Fellow Royal Society of Medicine, Fellow Society of Medical  
Officers of Health),

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



### Vital Statistics.

#### A.—Birth-rate, Death-rate, Infant and other Mortalities.

Population.—Census 1911, 7,227; 1921, 6,869. Estimated 1925, 6,778. Area in Acres, 51,265.

Births —Number, 121. Birth-rate, 17.8. Birth-rate England and Wales 1925, 18.3.

Deaths (from all causes), 83. Death-rate (General Death-rate), 12.9. Death-rate for England and Wales, 1925, 12.2.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year, 2. Infant Mortality (per 1000), 16.5. Infant Mortality for England and Wales, 1925, 7.5.

Illegitimate Births, 8. Illegitimate Birth-rate (percentage of total Births), 6.6.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases, 1 (Whooping Cough). Zymotic Mortality, .15.

Deaths from Cancer (and allied malignant diseases), 11. Cancer Mortality, 1.5.

Deaths from Tuberculosis, 5. Tuberculosis Mortality .8.

Deaths from the Chief Respiratory Diseases (Pneumonia, Pleurisy and Bronchitis), 8. Respiratory (non-Tubercular) Mortality, 1.1.

Deaths of Elderly Persons (65 years and upwards), 43. Senile Mortality (percentage of total deaths), 54.5.

#### B.—Notifications of Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases.

Tuberculosis.—Total, 11. Pulmonary, 8. Other forms, 3.

Other Infectious and Zymotic Diseases.—Total, 17.

Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina, 14

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, 3.

Tuberculosis.—Total 5. Pulmonary 5.

Other Infectious and Zymotic Diseases.—Total 3. Whooping Cough 1, Influenza 2.

### Housing Conditions.

#### 1.—General.—

Estimated Population, 6,778.

General Death-rate, 12.9.

Death-rate from Tuberculosis, .8.

Infantile Mortality, 16.5.

## 2.—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

## I.—Inspection.

Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—136.

Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—7.

## II.—Remedy of Defects without formal Notices.

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—12.

## III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

## A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &amp;c., Act, 1919.

Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair—12.

Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close—1.

## B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Number of Notices for Overcrowding—3.

Number of these complied with—3.

Number of foulness of interior of houses reported—1.

## C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &amp;c., Act, 1909.

Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders—7.

Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made—5.

## Local Housing Scheme or Schemes.

(position at end of year).

## A.—Official Three-years Scheme (1919-1922).

Number of Workmen's Dwellings it was decided to build during the three years ending July, 1922—46.

Parlour Houses (with parlour, living room, scullery and 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms)—46.

## C.—Sites.—Applications for Sites submitted (a) Number—10.

(b) Total Acreage—about  $12\frac{1}{2}$ .

Applications for Sites approved (a) Number—10

(b) Total Acreage— $12\frac{1}{2}$ .

Sites paid for (a) Number—10.

(b) Total Acreage— $12\frac{1}{2}$ .

## D.—Lay-out Plans.—Number submitted—11.

Providing for how many houses—46.

Number approved—11.

Providing for how many houses—46.

## E.—House Plans—Submitted (a) Number of Designs—3

(b) Providing for how many houses—46.

Approved (a) Number—3.

(b) Providing for how many houses—46.

## F.—Tenders for Houses—Submitted (a) Number—about 15.

(b) Providing for how many houses—46.

Approved (a) Number—11.

(b) Providing for how many houses—46.

## G.—Building in Progress.—Number of Sub-Schemes—1919/1922 Scheme completed.

## H.—Houses occupied (or ready to be)—Total number—46.

Number of Parlour houses—46.

## I.—Cost per House.—For building alone (a) Parlour Houses—About £850-£875

## J.—Rent.—Rent or proposed rent (apart from rates)—10 at 8/-, 36 at 7/- per week



### Regulated Establishments.

	No. on Regis- ter.	No, on Register previous year.	No. of Visits or Inspec- tions.	No. of Premises found defective.	No. of In- formal Notices.	No. of these complied with.
Cowsheds and Farm Dairies (within the District) ...	21	18	167	9	9	9
Milk Shops (Dairy Shops)	1	1				
Private Slaughter Houses	15	15	93	7	7	7
Meat Shops ...	16					
Bakehouses ...	10	11	48	4	4	4
Workshops and Work- places (excluding Bake- houses) ...	4	4	9			

### Engineering Concerns, &c.

#### A.—Water Supply.

Localities where Water Supply was improved—Grafham.

Localities where Water Supply is insufficient in quantity and/or defective in quality—Catworth, Toseland, Yelling, Grafham, Great Gransden.

#### B.—Drainage and Sewerage.

Localities where Drainage and Sewerage are in process of being improved—Kimbolton, Offord, Great Paxton, Great Gransden, Great Staughton, Diddington.

Localities where Drainage and Sewerage are likely to be early improved	} Kimbolton and Southoe.
Localities where Drainage and Sewerage should receive early consideration	

### Food Inspection and other Activities.

A.—Milk.—Action taken with regard to Tuberculous Milk, as laid down in Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, par. 4.

B.—Meat.—Arrangements for inspecting Meat at time of slaughtering—Mr. Burr. M.R.C.V.S. and Mr. Johns, M.R.C.V.S., appointed under Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924.

Progress made towards more Humane Methods of Slaughtering—Veterinary Inspection.

Arrangements for inspecting Meat-shops and Meat-carts—Medical Officer of Health, Meat Inspector and Sanitary Inspector.

C.—Other Foods.—Arrangements for inspecting Bread, Fish, Fruit, &c.—Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

### Unsound Food and Miscellaneous.

Milk and Milk Samples.—Whether Milk imported—No.

Whether Milk exported—Yes.

From how many Farms—One.

Meat and Meat Inspection.

How many Slaughterhouses licensed as well as registered—15.

Number of Slaughterhouses on Register the previous year—15.

Number of voluntary surrenders of Carcases or Part Carcases—1.  
For Tuberculosis—1.

Bakehouses—Total number—10.

Water and Water Samples—Number of Water Samples taken—2.

Number of Wells remedied—5.

Disinfection and Isolation—Number of Houses (a) Disinfected—12.

(b) Supplied with Disinfectants—18

Number of cases taken to Fever Hospital—11.

Nuisances.—Number of animals improperly kept and removed—2.

Inspecting, &c.—Total number of inspections during the year—1371.

Number of notices issued (a) Informal—108.

(b) Statutory—8.

(c) Total—116.



## Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, etc.

- A.—Whether following Acts (or parts) been adopted—  
    1—Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890—Yes.  
    2—Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Parts I and II)—Yes.  
                “                                ”(Part III)—No record.  
    3—Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Yes.
- B.—Whether Bye-Laws relating to following matters been made—  
    1—New Streets and Buildings—No.  
    2—Slaughterhouses—Yes.  
    3—Prevention of Nuisances—No.  
    4—Private Scavenging—No.  
    5—Houses Let in Lodgings or Tenements—No.  
    6—Common Lodging Houses—No.  
    7—Baths and Wash-houses—No.  
    8—Public Bathing—No.  
    9—Offensive Trades—No.  
    10—Cemeteries—No.  
    11—Mortuaries—No.
- C.—Whether Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk-shops Order, 1885,  
    been adopted—Yes.
- D.—Whether Urban Powers (for Rural Districts) under Public Health Act,  
    1875—No.
- E.—Whether a Local Water Act obtained—No.  
    Whether some other Act obtained—No.
- F.—Whether any Fever made Locally Notifiable—No.

## Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Factories (including Factory Laundries).—Inspections, 9. Written Notices, Nil.  
Occupiers prosecuted, Nil.

## Natural and Social Conditions.

**Area.**—51,265 Acres.—Comprises the following Villages : Abbotsley, Buckden, Diddington, Eynesbury Hardwicke, Grafham, Great Gransden, Offord Cluny, Offord Darcy, Great Paxton, Little Paxton, Southoe, Tetworth, Toseland, Waresley, Catworth, Hail Weston, Midloe, Great Staughton, Stow, Tilbrook and Yelling

Population.—Census 1921, 6,869; estimated 1925, 6,778

**Physical Features**—The highest point is about 180 feet above sea level, the lowest about 60 feet.

**Social Conditions.**—Almost entirely Agricultural.

## Vital Statistics.

*Vide* Forms 1, 2, 3 and 4.

## General Provision of Health Services.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by L.A. or C.C.

- (1) Tuberculosis.—Wyton Hostel, Huntingdon.
- (2) Maternity.—Nil.
- (3) Children.—Nil.
- (4) Fever.—The St. Neots R.D.C. contributes an annual sum to the "Joint Hospital" at Huntingdon. In return for this, cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric can be sent there. During the year ending 31st December, 1925, nine cases out of fourteen of Scarlet Fever were sent to the Joint Hospital. Two cases of Diphtheria were sent to the Beds. Isolation Hospital because the Joint Hospital was full.
- (5) Small Pox.—The St. Neots R.D.C., St. Neots U.D.C. and Eaton Socon R.D.C. have combined and hired an eight roomed house with out-buildings at Gimber's End, near Kimbolton. This is equipped and can be used as a Small Pox Hospital should the necessity arise. A caretaker keeps it clean and aired. Nurses will be procured when necessary. Should several cases of Small Pox occur it is proposed to use the Building as an "Administrative Block," and erect shelters in the garden for Patients. These shelters can be procured in a few hours from Papworth Sanatorium.

(6) Other accidents and cases of sickness requiring Hospital treatment are sent to the Hunts. County Hospital.

The St. Neots Poor Law Infirmary is situated at Eaton Socon, about one mile from the centre of St. Neots.

No Institutional Provision is made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children or homeless children other than the Poor Law Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.—An Ambulance for infectious cases is sent from the Isolation Hospital. For non-infectious cases and accidents an ambulance can be obtained from the County Hospital.

#### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare—Nil.

Day Nurseries.—Nil

School Clinics.—Nil.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.—Cases are seen at Huntingdon by the County County Tuberculosis Officer (County M.O.H.)

Venereal Disease.—This is treated at Cambridge, expenses being paid if necessary. Very few cases of venereal disease occur.

#### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

CROSS, E. J., M.D., D.P.H. (M.O.H.).

BURR, J.P., M.R.C.V.S. (Meat Inspector)

JOHNS, A., M.R.C.V.S. (Meat Inspector)

BRUCE, W., Sanitary Inspector.

#### Professional Nursing in the Home.

A District Nurse resides in Kimbolton, and another one at Great Staughton.

For Infectious Disease.—No provision for home nursing is made.

Midwives.—These are under the supervision of the County M.O.H. There is no scheme of co-ordination as far as the Local Authority is concerned.

Legislation in Force.—*Vide* Form XI.

#### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.—Abbotsley, Tetworth and Waresley have a supply from a spring at Old Woodbury Farm, from sand (lower greensand) on Tetworth Hill.

Buckden.—From wells. Supply is fair and sufficient.

Diddington.—From wells. Fair and sufficient.

Catworth.—Well at Manor Farm 12 feet through chalk over Oxford Clay. All but one of the wells in this village go dry in summer (T. S. Dymond).

Grafham.—Poor supply from ponds and shallow wells.

Great Gransden.—Wells, fair and sufficient.

Hail Weston.—Wells, fair and sufficient.

Kimbolton.—Wells, fair and sufficient.

Offords (Cluney and Darcy), fair and sufficient.

Paxton, Little.—Wells, fair and sufficient.

Paxton, Great.—Public supply. Well in gravel overlying Oxford clay, quality good, hardness about 19, supply ample.

St Neots Rural.—Wells and ponds. Supply is poor and indifferent.

Southoe. Wells, fair and sufficient.

Toseland and Yelling.—Wells, supply fair, but insufficient.

Scavenging.—*Vide* Form IX.

Sanitary Inspection.—*Vide* Form IV.

Schools.—Sanitary condition and Water Supply fairly satisfactory. No Schools closed on account of illness during 1925 (Form VIII).

#### Housing.

*Vide* Forms IV and V.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.—Tuberculous Milk and Cattle are dealt with as laid down in pars. 4 and 5 Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915. The St. Neots Urban District Council and Eaton Socon Rural District Council have availed themselves of Section 10 of the Milk and Dairies Act and appointed Veterinary Advisers. These Officers have done extremely good work. In St Neots six tubercular cows have been destroyed; these would not have been detected unless these appointments had been made, as under the Tuberculosis Order a Veterinary Surgeon is rarely called in soon enough, and the fact that the herds are under veterinary supervision makes the owner more careful what cows he keeps.



Meat.—Mr. Burr, M.R.C.V.S., and Mr. Johns, M.R.C.V.S., have been appointed Meat Inspectors under The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. These appointments have been very beneficial. The quality of the meat is, I find, much improved, and the shops and instruments cleaner.

### Infectious Disease.

Fourteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. The “ Dick ” Test was used by me in seven cases, six of these proved negative and did not contract the disease. The positive had a well marked rash next day.

Three cases of Diphtheria occurred in the Kimbolton School. It was impossible to ascertain their origin.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are sent at the expense of the Local Authority to the Clinical Research Association.

Diphtheria antitoxin is stored by the Medical Officer of Health and issued to practitioners free of charge when required.

### Tuberculosis.

*Vide* Forms II, I and III.

Eight cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (two male and six female) and three of Non-Pulmonary (one male and two female) were notified during the year 1925.

Altogether there are ten cases of Pulmonary and six of Non-Pulmonary on the Register (31st Dec., 1925).

Five deaths were attributed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, none to Non-Pulmonary. Of the deaths three were males aged 40, 72, 68, two females aged 50 and 58.

Of the fresh notifications, the two males were aged 9 and 13 years, the six females 26, 29, 54, 50, 58 and 50 (Pulmonary). Of the Non-Pulmonary notifications the male is aged 12 years and the two females 6 and 9 years.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.—To the best of my belief there are no tuberculous employees engaged in the milk trade in the District.

No action has been necessary under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Telephone.—The Sanitary Inspector's house has been connected with the Telephone. This is an enormous help to the efficient discharge of his duties.

I should like to place on record my appreciation of the invariable courtesy and ready help of my colleagues : Mr. Ennals (the Clerk) ; Mr. Burr and Mr. Johns (the Veterinary Surgeons) ; and Mr. W. Bruce (Sanitary Inspector).

EDWARD J. CROSS,

M.O.H. St. Neots Rural District.

Saint Neots,

18th March, 1926.



